

The National News Council

STANLEY H. FULD, Chairman
WILLIAM B. ARTHUR, Executive Director
NED SCHNURMAN, Associate Director

ONE LINCOLN PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

(212) 595-9411

November 20, 1975

The Honorable William E. Colby
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mr. Colby:

The National News Council unanimously adopted the following statement at a meeting of the Council on November 11 in Racine, Wisconsin:

The National News Council is alarmed at the threat to a free press inherent in reports that journalists, without the knowledge of their employers, have been retained by the Central Intelligence Agency in the fulfillment of various functions for the agency.

The Council requests that the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency make known the present extent of such employment and whether such a practice is presently being implemented.

If such practice presently exists, the Council further urges the Director of the CIA to issue an order immediately bringing an end to such employment of journalists and to make the order public. Without such an order, a cloud hangs over the entire profession of journalism.

As Chairman of the National News Council, an independent organization established in 1973 to consider complaints from the public concerning the accuracy and fairness of national news reporting and to examine possible infringements of freedom of the press, I await your response to this statement and request by the Council.

Sincerely,

Stanley H. Fuld
Chairman

SHF:nk

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The Honorable William E. Colby
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